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EXAMINER

SINGH, SATWANT K

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/645,905

Applicant(s)

SAITOH ET AL.

Examiner

Satwant K. Singh

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/22/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 16, 4th line recites "a setting unit that previously sets g a prescribed sorting method". It appears to the examiner that it should recite "a setting unit that previously sets a prescribed sorting method". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kakigi et al. (US 7,106,461).
3. Regarding Claim 1, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method for an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48) for communications via Internet (Fig. 41, internet), and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48), comprising: previously setting prescribed condition

information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic sorting (user separate automatic retrieval process) (col. 47, lines 40-44), and for judging a prescribed sorting method (identification attribute) in a case that automatic sorting is to be implemented (classification for the name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60); and checking contents of transmission identification information transmitted by a sender on the basis of the prescribed condition information, and controlling automatic sorting processing for a document received in a communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if the document received in the communication is judged to be subject to the automatic sorting (as long as an "identification attribute" is an attribute in the image attached information memorized in the storage medium of each image) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

4. Regarding Claim 2, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting, and the prescribed sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, are set in accordance with a user name, a telephone number, a domain name, and an organization name to which a sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information (user's e-mail address is set in the printer as an identification attribute) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

5. Regarding Claim 3, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein any one sorting method is set from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as

Art Unit: 2625

an output tray or a mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer (name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

6. Regarding Claim 4, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, it is also set whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient (images with the same user's e-mail address are outputted into the same paper discharge bin at the time of printing) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

7. Regarding Claim 5, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method for an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48) for communications via Internet (Fig. 41, internet), and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48), comprising: previously setting a prescribed sorting method (user separate automatic retrieval process) (col. 47, lines 40-44) for urgent documents (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4); and checking contents of transmission identification information transmitted by a sender, and controlling sorting processing (user issues printing instructions and the printer executed printout in "user separate automatic" mode according to the instructions) (col. 47, lines 40-44) for an urgent document in accordance with the prescribed sorting method for urgent documents (retrieval is make

Art Unit: 2625

according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4), if the communication is a communication of high urgency (retrieval is made according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4).

8. Regarding Claim 6, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein any one sorting method is set from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer (name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

9. Regarding Claim 7, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, it is also set whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient (images with the same user's e-mail address are outputted into the same paper discharge bin at the time of printing) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

10. Regarding Claim 8, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method for an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48) for communications via Internet (Fig. 41, internet), and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48), comprising: previously setting prescribed condition information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic

Art Unit: 2625

sorting (user separate automatic retrieval process) (col. 47, lines 40-44), and for judging a prescribed sorting method (identification attribute) if automatic sorting is to be implemented (classification for the name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60), and also previously setting a prescribed sorting method for urgent documents (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4); checking contents of transmission identification information transmitted by a sender, and controlling sorting processing for an urgent document in accordance with the prescribed sorting method for urgent documents (as long as an "identification attribute" is an attribute in the image attached information memorized in the storage medium of each image) (col. 50, lines 44-60), if the communication is a communication of high urgency (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4); and checking the contents of transmission identification information transmitted by the sender on the basis of the prescribed condition information, even if the communication is not one of high urgency (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4) according to the result of the preceding check, and controlling automatic sorting processing for a document received in the communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if the document received in the communication is judged to be subject to automatic sorting (as long as an "identification attribute" is an attribute in the image attached information memorized in the storage medium of each image) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

Art Unit: 2625

11. Regarding Claim 9, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting, and the prescribed sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, are set in accordance with the user name, telephone number, domain name, and organization name to which the sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information (user's e-mail address is set in the printer as an identification attribute) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

12. Regarding Claim 10, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein any one sorting method is set from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer (name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

13. Regarding Claim 11, Kakigi et al disclose a received document sorting control method wherein in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, it is also set whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient (images with the same user's e-mail address are outputted into the same paper discharge bin at the time of printing) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

14. Regarding Claim 12, Kakigi et al disclose an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48) for communications via Internet (Fig. 41, internet), and receives



Art Unit: 2625

documents by means of the facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48), comprising: a setting unit that previously sets prescribed condition information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic sorting (user separate automatic retrieval process) (col. 47, lines 40-44), and determines a prescribed sorting method if automatic sorting is to be performed (classification for the name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60); a storing unit that stores transmission identification information transmitted by a sender (outputting an image file stored in the host 500) (col. 47, lines 52-62); a judging unit that checks contents of the transmission identification information stored in the storing unit on the basis of the set prescribed condition information (print server accessing the printer specified by the host and issues a printing request by notifying the storing location) (col. 48, lines 6-19), and judges whether or not a document received in a communication is subject to automatic sorting (paper discharge mode of the printer is set as "user separate automatic") (col. 48, lines 29-37); and a received document sorting control unit that controls automatic sorting processing for the document received in the communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if it is judged by the judging unit that the document received in the communication is subject to automatic sorting (printer starts printing and outputs with classification process in "user separate automatic mode) (col. 48, lines 29-40).

15. Regarding Claim 13, Kakigi et al discloses an image processing device, wherein the setting unit establishes implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting,

Art Unit: 2625

and a prescribed sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, in accordance with a user name, a telephone number, a domain name, and an organization name to which a sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information (user's e-mail address is set in the printer as an identification attribute) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

16. Regarding Claim 14, Kakigi et al discloses an image processing device, wherein the setting unit establishes any one sorting method from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer (name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

17. Regarding Claim 15, Kakigi et al discloses an image processing device, wherein the setting unit, in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, also establishes whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient (images with the same user's e-mail address are outputted into the same paper discharge bin at the time of printing) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

18. Regarding Claim 16, Kakigi et al discloses an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48) for communications via Internet (Fig. 41, internet), and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48), comprising: a setting unit that

Art Unit: 2625

previously sets a prescribed sorting method (user separate automatic retrieval process) (col. 47, lines 40-44) for urgent documents (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4), a storing unit that stores transmission identification information transmitted by a sender (outputting an image file stored in the host 500) (col. 47, lines 52-62); a judging unit that checks contents of the transmission identification information stored in the storing means (print server accessing the printer specified by the host and issues a printing request by notifying the storing location) (col. 48, lines 6-19) and judges whether or not the communication is one of high urgency (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4); and a received document sorting control unit that controls sorting processing for an urgent document (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4), in accordance with the set prescribed sorting method (printer starts printing and outputs with classification process in "user separate automatic mode) (col. 48, lines 29-40) for urgent documents, if the communication is judged by the judging means to be one of high urgency (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4).

19. Regarding Claim 17, Kakigi et al discloses an image processing device wherein the setting unit establishes any one sorting method from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated

Art Unit: 2625

personal computer (name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

20. Regarding Claim 18, Kakigi et al discloses an image processing device wherein the setting unit, in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, also establishes whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient (images with the same user's e-mail address are outputted into the same paper discharge bin at the time of printing) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

21. Regarding Claim 19, Kakigi et al disclose an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48) for communications via Internet (Fig. 41, internet), and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit (each example may be applied to a facsimile apparatus) (col. 64, lines 40-48), comprising: a setting unit that previously sets prescribed condition information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic sorting (user separate automatic retrieval process) (col. 47, lines 40-44) and determines a prescribed sorting method if automatic sorting is to be performed (classification for the name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60), and that also previously sets a prescribed sorting method for urgent documents (retrieval is made according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4); a storing unit that stores transmission identification information transmitted by a sender (outputting an image file stored in the host 500) (col. 47, lines 52-62); a first judging unit that checks contents of

Art Unit: 2625

the transmission identification information stored in the storing means print server accessing the printer specified by the host and issues a printing request by notifying the storing location) (col. 48, lines 6-19) and judges whether or not the communication is one of high urgency (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4); a second judging unit that checks the contents of the transmission identification information transmitted by the sender on the basis of the set prescribed condition information print server accessing the printer specified by the host and issues a printing request by notifying the storing location) (col. 48, lines 6-19), even if the communication is not one of high urgency as a result of the judgment made by the first judgment means (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4), and judges whether or not the document received in the communication is subject to automatic sorting (paper discharge mode of the printer is set as "user separate automatic") (col. 48, lines 29-37); and a received document sorting control unit that controls sorting processing for an urgent document , in accordance with the set prescribed sorting method for urgent documents, if the communication is judged by the first judging unit to be one of high urgency (retrieval is make according to a predetermined priority order) (col. 32, lines 62-67, col. 33, lines 1-4), and that controls automatic sorting processing for the document received in the communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if it is judged by the second judging unit that the document received in the communication is subject to automatic sorting (printer starts printing and outputs with classification process in "user separate automatic mode) (col. 48, lines 29-40).

Art Unit: 2625

22. Regarding Claim 20, Kakigi et al disclose an image processing device wherein the setting unit establishes implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting, and the prescribed sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, in accordance with a user name, a telephone number, a domain name, and an organization name to which a sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information (user's e-mail address is set in the printer as an identification attribute) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

23. Regarding Claim 21, Kakigi et al disclose an image processing device wherein the setting unit establishes any one sorting method from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer (name of paper discharge tray in "user separate automatic" mode) (col. 50, lines 44-60).

24. Regarding Claim 22, Kakigi et al disclose an image processing device wherein the setting unit, in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, also establishes whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient (images with the same user's e-mail address are outputted into the same paper discharge bin at the time of printing) (col. 50, lines 61-67).

### ***Conclusion***

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hosada et al. (US 6,914,687) discloses an image recording apparatus shared by a plurality of users.

Yajima (US 7,161,697) discloses an image transmitting apparatus for transmitting information to different destinations.

Robles et al. (US 2002/0198904) discloses a method for managing document production over a computer network.

Baird et al. (US 2005/0275871) discloses a fax storage and retrieval system comprised of a fax receiving module configured to receive a plurality of facsimile documents from a plurality of fax devices.

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Satwant Singh*

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Examiner  
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*K. Y. Poon*

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PRIMARY EXAMINER